



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

# The Christie Report

Social Security Disability — Car Accidents—Nursing Home/Medical Malpractice

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## Personal Message - *from Sharon*

### Welcome to 2010!

I know that 2009 was painful for many of you. The economy was just the tip of the iceberg. Many of you are suffering from illness or injury or the loss of a loved one. You may feel depressed because your disability or injury case takes too long. You may feel like there is no hope. I know because you tell me—and I am glad that you do. I have a plaque on my wall that reads:

### Never, never, never give up

I look at that plaque often and remind myself that it is true.

I am a HUGE football fan and am writing this message the day before the Baltimore Ravens play the Indianapolis Colts in a playoff game. By the time you read this, we will know who won. But, win or lose, what I really love about the Ravens is that they don't quit. They don't give up, no matter how much "better" the other team is supposed to be. No matter how far behind they are. No matter how many setbacks they have had during the game. No matter how poorly they may have played the week before. Every quarter of the game is a new opportunity for them. Nobody thought they could make it to the playoffs, but they did. Nobody thought they could beat the New England Patriots, but they did. Because they "never, never, never give up." And one year, that's how they won a Super Bowl!



Dark days come for all of us at times. So if you are feeling bad and ready to give up, don't do it. We're not giving up on you so don't give up on yourself.



## What To Do If You're In A Car Accident

A week before Christmas I was in a car accident. I was stopped in heavy traffic on the interstate when another driver, who was not paying attention to the road, slammed into the back of my car. That forced me into the car in front of me and forced that car into the one in front of it! Fortunately no one was seriously hurt, but my car suffered a lot of damage. **Even though I am a lawyer and represent people who have been injured in car accidents, it was hard to think straight right after the accident.** So, I thought I would give you some tips on what to do if this ever happens to you:

- 1. Keep calm** - You'll be shaken up but you need to think clearly. Put on your flashers. When it's safe, get out of the car.
- 2. Call the police** - Dial 911. If you're injured, ask for an ambulance. You want a record of the accident. Make sure

you get a report number from the police so that you, or your lawyer, can get a copy of it when it's complete.

**3. Do not apologize** - Even if you're at fault. Anything you say can be used against you later. Give an accurate description of the accident to the police when they arrive.

**4. Get insurance information from the other driver** - Maryland drivers must carry a certain amount of insurance & proof of insurance in the car. Get the name, address and phone number of the other person AND the name of their insurance company AND the policy number.

**5. Get the name and phone number of any witnesses** - Witnesses can be very important in accidents. If anyone saw the accident, make sure to get his or her contact information.

**6. If your car must be towed, get the name and address of the facility where it will be taken** -

Your insurance company needs this information. You'll also need to decide where you want the car taken for repairs.

**7. Call your insurance company** - Give your insurance company as much information about the accident as you can, especially the name of the at-fault driver and his or her insurance information.

**8. Get medical care if you need it** - You may not have needed medical care at the scene of the accident but, later that day, or in the following days, you may have bruising, aches and pains. If you do, and the symptoms interfere with your daily activities, be sure to see your doctor.

I hope you're never in a car accident but, if you are, these tips will help you. If you're seriously injured in an accident, be sure to call us. We will help you deal with the other driver and his or her insurance company.

- Sharon Christie



## The Lighter Side

### The Lion Tamer

A man wanted to join the circus as a lion tamer. The circus master asked if he had any experience and the man said, "Why, yes. My father was one of the most famous lion tamers in the world, and he taught me everything he knew."

"Really?" asked the circus master. "Did he teach you how to make a lion jump through a flaming hoop?"

"Yes, he did," the man replied.

"And did he teach you how to have six lions form a pyramid?"

"Yes, he did."

"And have you ever stuck your head in a lion's mouth?"

"Just once."

"Why only once?"

"I was looking for my father."

### Talks Too Much

Eight year old Nina brought her report card home from school. Her marks were good, mostly A's and a couple B's.

But her teacher had written across the bottom, "Nina is a smart little girl, but she has one fault. She talks too much in school. I have an idea I am going to try, which I think may break her of the habit."

Nina's dad signed her report card, putting a note on the back: "Please let me know if your idea works on Nina because I would like to try it on her mother."

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average: B				
Attendance:	Present	100%		
	Absent	0%		
	Tardy	0%		
<small>A = Excellent B = Good C = Satisfactory S = Needs Improvement                      L = Unsatisfactory I = Inadequate / Incomplete</small>				
Student:	Grade:	Year:		

St. Valentine's Day  
Feb. 14



## Contact Me Online!

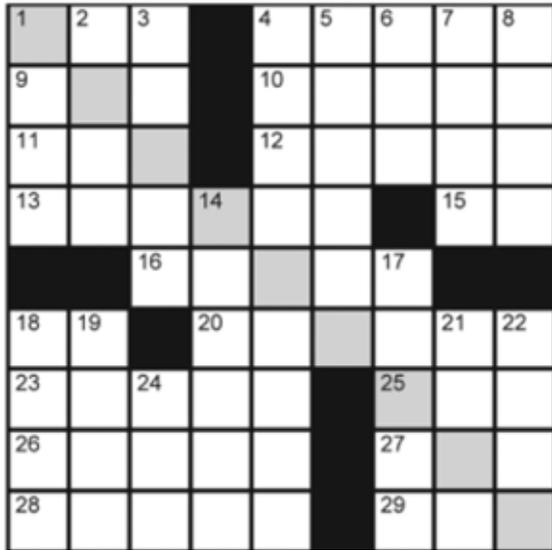
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"Friend" me today! Find me at :  
<http://www.facebook.com/SharonAChristie>

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# Boys Club Crossword



**Across:**

1. Sports \_\_\_\_
2. Old enough
3. Hold up
4. Golfer's accessory
5. Wrigley Field flora
6. Bridge positions
7. Gentlemen: Abbr.
8. Objective male pronoun
9. Pilgrim's destination
10. "\_\_\_the People..."
11. Cardinal number
12. Poppy product
13. Beehive State native
14. Flood embankment
15. Pilot's announcement, for short
16. Provides food

17. "Help!"

**Down:**

1. Fedora feature
2. Amble
3. Deep cavity
4. Defeats
5. Debacle
6. Beast of burden
7. Invader of the Roman Empire
8. Gaelic
9. Went on
10. Chills & fever
11. Lobo
12. Fencing sword
13. "Beetle Bailey" dog
14. Grasslands
15. "\_\_\_got it!"

## FREE Seminars

### - Social Security Disability -

Sessions Each Month!  
See website for days, times, and locations

## BALTIMORE EVENTS

### 18th Annual FREE Concert for Families

Feb. 27, 1pm  
Shriver Hall  
3400 N Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218  
Stravinsky's "Fireworks" & Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Audience to be invited on stage after the concert to meet the musicians.

### Annual Jazz Masters Concert featuring Frank Wess Quintet

Feb. 28, 5-7pm  
Baltimore Museum of Art  
10 Art Museum Dr., Baltimore, MD 21218  
Octogenarian Frank Wess has been on the jazz scene for 6 decades. His name is synonymous with swing. Tickets & info at [www.baltimorechamberjazz.org](http://www.baltimorechamberjazz.org)

### Irish History & Heritage Festival

Mar. 20, 1-4pm  
Maryland Historical Society  
201 W. Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201  
Irish music, dance, food, myths & legends. Free for members. \$10 for non-members.



## Fewer Cars Are "Top Safety Picks" in 2010

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety added a new roof-strength test to the already rigorous test it uses.

Aimed at protecting passengers in roll-over collisions, the new requirement reduced the number of top rated vehicles from 94 in 2009 to 27 in 2010!

To become a top safety pick, a vehicle has to have the group's top rating in front, side, rollover & rear impact crash tests.

According to the Wall Street Journal, it must also have electronic stability control, which helps drivers maintain control of the vehicle in situations that might result in a crash.

### Top Safety Picks

**Large cars:** Buick LaCrosse, Ford Taurus, Lincoln MKS, & Volvo S80

**Midsize cars:** Audi 3, Chevrolet Malibu (built after Oc. '09), Chrysler Sebring with optional ESC, Dodge Avenger with optional ESC, Mercedes C Class, Subaru Legacy, Subaru Outback, VW Jetta 4-door, Passat 4-door, & Volvo C30

**SUVs:** Dodge Journey, Subaru Tribeca, Volvo XC90, Honda Element, Jeep Patriot, Subaru Forester & VW Tiguan.

## ★ Mardi Gras Festivities Celebrated Worldwide ★

Mardi Gras — or Fat Tuesday — is world renowned as the rowdy, bawdy, celebration of spring, but the day is more than that.

Fat Tuesday is traditionally the last hurrah for Christians the day before the austere penitential season of Lent begins. Fat Tuesday is followed by Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of the 40 days of austerity that lead up to Holy Week and Easter.

Mardi Gras has no official standing on the calendar of the Catholic Church, but it has been celebrated for centuries by Christians and non-

Christians alike. Mardi Gras, or Carnival, arrived in Louisiana in 1699 with French explorer Iberville, who had celebrated it in Paris.

Today it is celebrated in hundreds of cities across the United States and hundreds more in South America, Europe and Asia.

While it marks the beginning of Lent, people of all faiths, or no faith, believe in celebrating it even if they don't observe Lent as 40 days of prayer, self-denial and penitence.

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To receive a FREE copy of  
**Sharon Christie's**  
*Unofficial Guide to Social  
Security Disability Benefits*

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# Sharon A. Christie Law

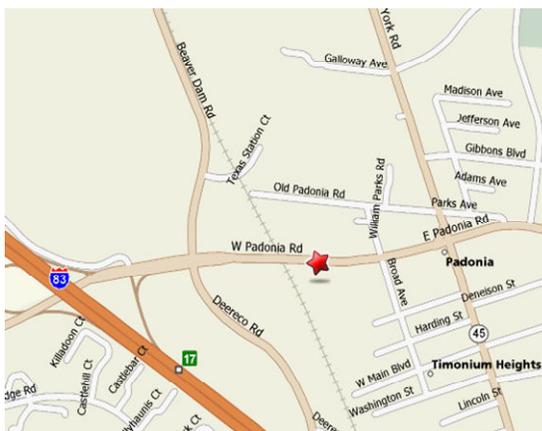
The **Law Office of Sharon A. Christie** helps disabled workers receive the Social Security Disability benefits they deserve. The firm also helps clients who are seriously injured in car accidents, by medical malpractice or who are victims of nursing home abuse get fair compensation for those injuries.

The firm's mission is to fight for the underdog and level the playing field, whether the opponent is the government or an insurance company.

The firm's founder, Sharon A. Christie, is a nurse as well as an attorney and her staff includes a nurse-paralegal.

**Sharon's clients receive the benefit of having their cases handled by a firm that knows the medicine AND the law.**

For more information about the law firm, visit our website at [www.SharonChristieLaw.com](http://www.SharonChristieLaw.com).



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**Practice Areas**  
Car Accidents  
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Social Security Disability

